

Amendment to the Specification

[0039] Applicator 52 may take the form of a handheld device with a handle 56. Applicator 52 includes a pair of electrodes that engages the outer skin layer 34 and hair follicle 26. Thus, as illustrated, applicator 52 may include an electrode 58 electrically connected to generator 50 by connector 54b. Electrode 58 is illustrated as a substantially flat ring or annular electrode in the Figure that engages the outer skin layer 34. Applicator 52 may also include an electrode 60 electrically connected to generator 50 by connector 54b. Electrode 60 is illustrated as a rod-like electrode that engages the follicle 26. Electrode 58 substantially surrounds the rod-like electrode 60. That is, when electrode 60 engages a follicle as shown in the Figure, electrode 58 will contact an area of the patient's skin substantially, and preferably continuously, surrounding the electrode 60. As seen in the Figure, when the electrode 58 engages the skin of the patient, the tip of the electrode 60 lies substantially in the same plane as that defined by the electrode 60 as it engages the hair follicle. As shown, the electrode 58 has a substantially flat surface for engaging the patient's skin, but other surfaces may be utilized as desired for particular applications so long as the appropriate and desired electric field can be generated in the vicinity of the hair follicle. If desired or otherwise deemed advisable, electrical contact between the electrode 60 and follicle 26 may be improved by application of the appropriate conductive gel to the electrode 60.